

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro.

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LOS ANGELES, CAL., MAY 17, 1912

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No. 26

THE AFRICAN METHODISTS MAKE GREAT PROGRESS

The most compact and powerful of the Negro churches is the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Its membership has grown from 42 members in 1787 to 200,000 members in 1876 and 494,777 members in 1906. It is governed by a board of bishops, fifteen to eighteen in number, over whom the senior bishop, at present the Rt. Rev. Henry M. Turner presides.

The church has 7,000 local organizations, with property worth over \$11,000,000. It raises about \$2,000,000 a year; of this about \$800,000 goes to pastors, \$200,000 to bishops and presiding elders, and the other million to schools, missions and general expenses.

There are two publication houses, weekly papers and a quarterly magazine and some publication of books. The church supports over forty schools, of which the largest and oldest is Wilberforce University, in Ohio.

The church, however, is chiefly noteworthy on account of its board of bishops. These bishops are

elected for life by a general conference meeting every four years. The membership of the general conference consists of ministerial and lay delegates; the clerical delegates are elected from the annual conferences, one for every thirty ministers. Two lay delegates for each annual conference are selected by the representatives of the official church boards in the conference. Thus we have a peculiar case of Negro government, with elaborate machinery and the experience of a hundred years. How has it succeeded? Its financial and numerical success has

been remarkable, as has been shown. Moreover, the bishops elected form a remarkable series of personalities. Together the assembled bishops are perhaps the most striking body of Negroes in the world in personal appearance: men of massive physique, clear-cut features and undoubted intelligence.

The General Conference, which meets in Kansas City, Mo., May 6-27, is a quadrennial meeting having the highest legislative and judicial authority. Meeting as seldom as it does, it is necessarily a body of great importance. Its membership will be 522, consisting of the bishops, heads of general departments, presidents of colleges and ministerial and lay delegates representing American and African conferences. The revision of the discipline and the election of bishops and heads of departments will be the chief business of the session.

ECONOMICS

The colored Masons of Alabama report that \$75,949, have been received during the year. The Odd Fellows of Louisiana have paid \$3,000 for a new building in New Orleans. The United Brothers of Friendship have erected a \$20,000 building at Louisville, Ky. This order collected in Texas during the year \$67,459. The Masons of Mississippi are reported to have spent \$1,300,000 for endowment benefits, and have a balance of \$19,000 on hand. The Odd Fellows of that State spent \$507,000 in two years, and have a balance of \$78,000 on hand.

In West Virginia the Republicans of Fayette County have since 1902 given the colored people one representative in the legislature. Two years ago the "Lily White" movement got rid of the colored member, and the result was the Negroes threw their votes to the Independents and defeated the Republicans. This year a colored man seems likely to be nominated.

WESLEY CHAPEL TELEGRAPHHS THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

To the General Conference of the M. E. Church.

In care of the Bishop presiding. Greetings:

The matter as to whether we get a Negro Bishop or not is of very little concern to us, compared to the importance of article two hundred and sixty (260). There is no more reason for putting it under advices, because some folks do not observe it than that the ten commandments or the golden rule should be discarded for similar reason.

The six hundred and fifty members of Wesley Chapel, emphatically protest against any move on the part of the church to backslide on this thing. We most earnestly entreat you to save us from the great embarrassment which will follow any slackness with reference to these rules.

In behalf of Wesley Chapel,
E. W. Kenchin,
Pastor.

**A BRAVE EX-UNION SOLDIER
DIES IN PRISON FOR KILL-
ING AN OFFICER IN
SELF-DEFENSE**

**STATE PRISON, SAN QUENTIN
California**

May 6, 1912.

Mr. J. L. Edmonds,
Sawtelle, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Upon referring to our correspondence records, I find that you were, some time ago, in correspondence with convict No. 22500, Edward Silver, and I am, therefore, led to believe that you will be interested in knowing that his death occurred here this morning from acute peritonitis. His remains will be buried in the prison cemetery.

Should you know of the address of any of his other friends or relatives, I would suggest that they will probably appreciate the favor if you will advise them of his death.

Yours very truly,
John E. Hoyle
Warden.

The above brief letter tells of the passing of as brave a man as ever breathed heaven's pure air. That such a man is designated as "convict" is an indictment against the boasted spirit of fair play of which we hear so much and see so little.

Edward Silver, an ex-union soldier was quietly working as a laborer at the borax works at Daggett, San Bernardino Co., this state, on Oct. 19th, 1907.

The foreman, a man of overbearing disposition and who, perhaps, from unfortunate previous environment, looked upon colored men as having no rights that he was bound to respect, ordered Silver to change from "the night to the day shift."

"I don't want to work on that shift, so you can give me my time," said Silver.

This offended the boss and he attempted to chastise Silver and "teach him his place."

The athletic training that Silver had received in the army came to

his rescue and though refusing to strike his antagonist, he protected himself with such ease that his would-be chastiser grew frantic. Seizing a spade, he attempted to brain Silver; with ease Silver took the deadly tool and threw it away. The now desperate man made a dash for a magazine shot gun that he kept in the factory. Silver won the race to the gun and although not touching it himself, he did not allow the boss to touch it.

Thoroughly beaten at his own game without being struck a blow, he did as his kind always do in such emergencies—went downtown and summoned help to "kill a bad nigger."

When [the would-be Negro baiter left the factory, Silver hurried to his cabin, put his automatic colts in his pocket and went two miles into the country.

In the meantime, securing the aid of a friend and a deputy sheriff, with no warrant, but armed with four six shooters, the would-be Negro killer, made a desperate search of two hours after dark for Silver, visiting the home of every Negro in the town.

Got What They Were Looking For

Having searched the town in vain for trouble, they decided to way-lay and kill Silver when he returned to his cabin.

Taking their places in a bend of the road, near Silver's cabin, the bend in the road making it possible for Silver to walk into their misdt without seeing them. That was just what happened.

Surrounding him, without saying a word, the deputy sheriff with partly drawn revolver stealthily approached him. When within a few feet of Silver the officer, who had the reputation of being a gun man, opened fire, only to find himself in deadly combat with a gunner from one of Uncle Sam's black regiments.

In less time than it takes to tell it, twenty shots had been fired, all four men taking part in the duel; one Negro against three colored lawyer, to defend Silver.

white men. Before the officer had time to fall, four bullets had pierced his body above the heart all planted in a space like the palm of your hand. When the officer fell, his companions broke away with all speed leaving the wounded man to fate. The white men fired sixteen shots; Silver fired four.

The other two men are living because Silver did not want to kill them; for with the two remaining cartridges in his revolver he could have easily killed both as they ran.

Appeal to the Mob.

With a bullet in his leg that he received in the fight Silver limped off toward San Bernardino to surrender to the sheriff.

In the meantime, morning papers of this city came out in flaming headlines and by willfully distorting the facts did everything possible to turn that county into a howling mob. They painted Silver such a vicious, blood-thirsty animal that the mob kept out of his way. This enabled him to surrender to the officers.

Once in his hands, to his lasting credit, Sheriff Ralps coolly announced that there would be no lynching and he meant just what he said.

The jail in which Silver was confined was in charge of relatives of the officer that he killed and the treatment he received there according to his oath would have killed any but seasoned veteran.

Being daily threatened with death at the stake, he pleaded guilty to killing the officer which, of course, was true. In spite of the circumstances attending the killing, which were in reach of the court, he was sentenced to hang.

His Life Saved.

The Editor of this journal, who had watched the case and noted the efforts of certain daily papers to excite mob violence, employed Attorney C. S. Dardin, a young colored lawyer, to defend Silver.

Attorney Dardin volunteered his services, the editor agreeing to raise the expense fund. Taking the case up with the Forum, the editor was appointed by that organization as its representative to solicit funds for the defense.

A committee consisting of Att'y. Darden, A. C. Garrott and J. L. were appointed to visit Silver.

Att'y Darden laid the foundation.

Appeals for funds were promptly responded to by the colored people and, after a battle lasting thirteen months, the State Supreme Court requested Governor Gillette to commute the sentence to life imprisonment, which was done after Silver had been twice sentenced to hang.

Judge John D. Pitts Enters the Fight.

While the excitement in the Silver case was at fever heat, Judge Pitts, a Texan, whose sense of justice is his ruling passion volunteered his services to assist in securing justice and fair play to the friendless man. He knew all of the circumstances attending the killing and decided that what threatened to become a judicial lynching should not take place, if he could prevent it.

Once into the case, although it had been closed and the innocent man's doom sealed, the case was reopened and he immediately wrote Silver a letter telling him that he would never be hanged. The case was carried twice to the State Supreme Court. When the attorneys received a telegram that Silver's sentence had been commuted, they had everything ready to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The news of Silver's death comes to find his attorneys laying plans to secure his pardon.

Edward Silver was reared in an orphan asylum in the state of New York. He was well liked wherever he lived. His army discipline served him well wherever fortune cast his lot. He was a model prisoner and numbered among his friends all of the prison officials.

A man of good habits, always cool, a total stranger to fear, he displayed the white flag to none but death.

The fact that this man went to prison at all, shows the extent to which American manhood is being enslaved to degrading, insane, debasing color prejudice.

After receiving his sentence to hang, Silver wrote a letter to the editor of this journal, whom he never saw, asking him to do what he could to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment. This request was granted. Though attached as affectionately as father and son the two men never met.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

WILL SPEAK AT THE LYCEUM

Rev. R. M. King, a prominent minister, of Macon, Georgia, will address the Lyceum, next Sunday, May 19th, 1912.

Everybody cordially invited.
1209 Central Ave., 4 P. M.

Miss Martha Drummer, a returned missionary from Angola, Africa, spoke at Wesley Chapel, last Sunday, on her work in Africa. It was one of the most interesting addresses ever delivered there. She gave much information that is new. Her description of the natives their physical development and power, their keen sense of honor and their moral purity was a revelation. Her plea for means to carry the gospel to those hungering people made a deep impression. Quite a sum of money was pledged.

The Odd Fellows's annual sermon was preached at Wesley Chapel, last Sunday. It was attended by the largest crowd in its history.

The several lodges made a splendid appearance.

Mrs. Emma Guy, of Springfield, Ohio, is a recent arrival to the city. She is the guest of Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Kenchin.

ATTORNEY EDWARD BURTON CERUTI

Attorney Edward Burton Ceruti will address the Y. M. C. A., next Sunday, May 19th, 3 P. M. You will do well to go out and hear him. 831 San Pedro St.

The infant son of Mrs. Nannie Prudhomme has been seriously sick for two weeks.

You will do well to consult the People's Progressive Life Association about insurance. They protect you in sickness and death. See ad elsewhere. Don't wait!

COLORED BOY ELECTED MEMBER

At a recent meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of the University of Michigan, Joseph H. B. Evans, son of Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Bruce Evans, of this city, was elected to membership in that organization. Young Evans is a graduate of the institution, having completed the course in three years.

GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening of Seal Garden Park will take place May 30th, with the first big picnic of the season.

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Per inch	\$3.00
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How to Write for The Liberator.

Write only on one side of your paper.

Editors Address

Sawtelle, Cal.

Residence Phone Main 157 J12

ON DANGEROUS GROUND

On the question of amusements, the great M. E. church is on dangerous ground. The entertainment for even a moment of the suggestion of pulling down the bars, relative to worldly amusements, shows whither the M. E. church is drifting.

It was the small difference between the church and the world in Wesley's day that gave birth to our great church. To abolish the church rules prohibiting theater going, betting on horse races and such sinful pleasures, means the abandonment of everything that

has made the great M. E. church a blessing to all mankind. To argue that these rules should be abolished because they are not enforced, is no argument whatever. Follow out this argument, and the ten commandments and with them all laws governing society would go. In Wesley's day, the difference between the church and the world was so small, that it was difficult to tell where the church ended and the world began. What were the conditions of society at that time? Was the world as big in charity for all mankind as it is now?

If men and women are free to gamble, bet on horse races, go to theaters and dance, what will they have to do to forfeit their church membership?

The 300,000 colored members of the M. E. Church are very anxious to have colored bishops elected at this session of the general conference; but this pales into insignificance besides the question of the church, relative to amusements.

Let the church enforce its rules and let such as cannot obey them go. Make no surrender to the worldly minded.

COTTON PICKERS NEEDED

Negroes interested in Movement to Send Members of Their Race to Valley to Assist Farmers.

A movement that has been instituted in Los Angeles for the betterment of the condition of Negroes who come here from the South, and which is commended by some of the leading Negroes of this city, is likely to be the means of sending to Imperial Valley a number of the best Negro cotton farmers who come from the southern cotton belt to California.

For some time past leaders of the Negro citizenship here have felt that members of their race who come from farming districts of the South should be urged to get out into the agricultural districts of Southern California, rather than to seek locations in the city.

To this end a company of colored

men have been making an inspection of conditions and lands in Imperial Valley. In the party were J. L. Edmonds, editor of the Liberator, a local Negro newspaper; G. Woodson Wickliffe, a local attorney, and T. N. Alexander. These men made a thorough inspection of Imperial Valley from Brawley to Calexico, and were amazed at what is being done in cotton growing there, especially in the volunteering of cotton.

These men, who have just returned from the valley, believe they will be doing the best class of Southern Negroes a good service by inducing them to go to Imperial Valley and engage in cotton growing, and that this will also be of service to the valley residents, as it will furnish an abundance of experienced labor for the cotton fields.—*L. A. Times.*

SENATE REFUSES TO DISFRANCHISE

The Senate, which is Republican, has refused to recede from its amendment to the joint resolution providing for the direct election of Senators. The amendment as proposed by the Senate retains the right of Congress to exercise a supervisory power over the time, manner and place of holding elections of Senators, whereas the original resolution gives this power to the States, which would spell absolute disfranchisement of Afro-Americans in the South.

COLORED SCHOLAR GETS DEGREE

Harvard University has conferred the degree of doctor of philosophy on Mr. C. G. Woodson, a teacher in the M Street High School. Mr. Woodson is the second Afro-American to be thus honored: William E. Burghardt Du Bois, being the first.

CARD OF THANKS

To the Editor of *The Liberator*:

We wish to thank through the ored girl, 22 years old, of good columns of your valuable paper, character, have a common school the friends for their sympathies education and own a little property, and attention upon the loss of I would like to correspond with our beloved wife and mother, Mrs. Margarett Markham. We are complexion, 24 to 27 years of age doubly thankful to the U. B. F. and possessing all of the qualifications above mentioned. Must and S. M. T. Society for such a manifestation of fraternal love, and weigh 160 pounds. All drunkards for the floral offerings sent on the day of the funeral.

Respectfully,

H. C. Markham
Mr. and Mrs. Markham

For refreshments stop at W. Hutchins' place, 1517 W. 35th Place. They carry a full line of refreshments and soft drinks, with a barber shop and boot black stand in connection. Lunches served. Polite service in each department.

BANQUET TO PROF. COOK

Prof. George W. Cook, for thirty-nine years connected with Howard University, was banqueted Friday night, William H. Lewis, assistant attorney general, acted as toastmaster.

I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH YOU

I am a dark brown skinned a young western man of the same I would like to correspond with a young western man of the same and possessing all of the qualifications above mentioned. Must barred. I am living in Colorado, but all letters addressed to Miss Pattie Belle, care of *The Liberator*, 210 Thorpe Building, Los Angeles, Cal., will be forwarded to me without examination.

PATTIE BELLE

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The park has plenty of shade, and is large enough to be just the place for a day's pleasure. No intoxicating drinks will be allowed on the premises. Hurry and select your date. For further information call Broadway 3851, or see J. B. Loving, 927 E. Twelfth street. The park is located on Long Beach car line.

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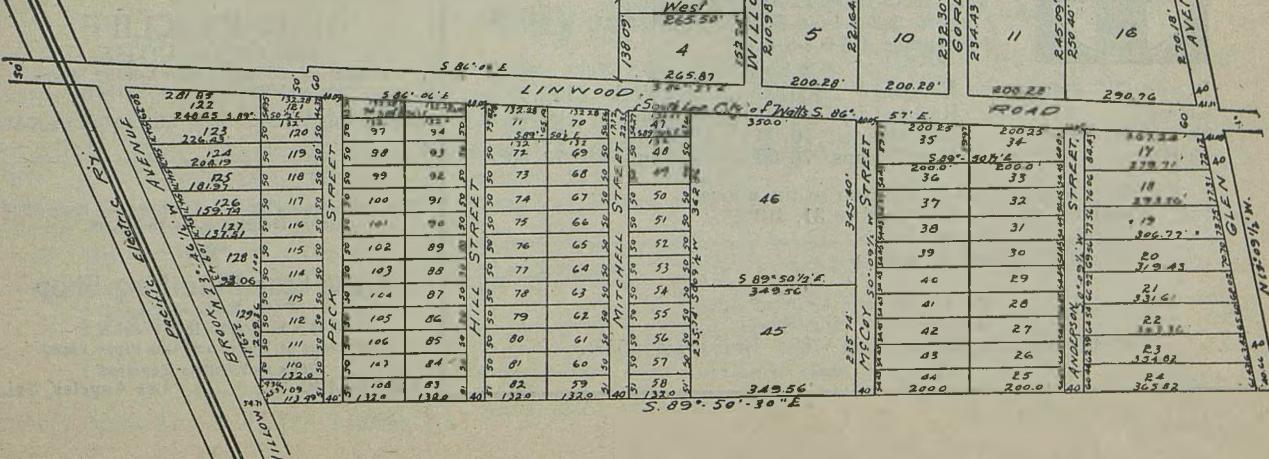
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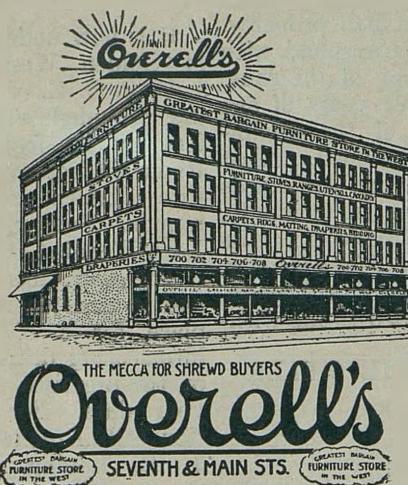
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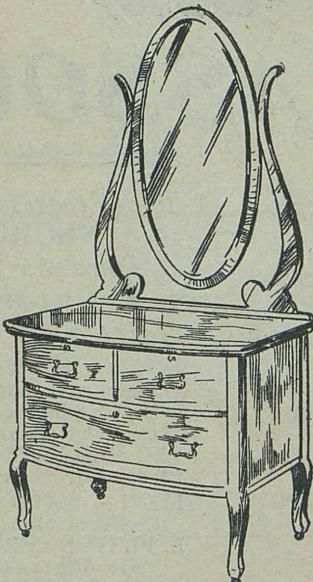
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Estate of Mary Smith, also known as Mary E. Smith, deceased, No. 20418. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned administratrix of the estate of Mary Smith, also known as Mary E. Smith, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit the same with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice to the said administratrix, at the office of G. W. Wickliffe, attorney for said administratrix at Room 209-210 Thorpe Building, 132 No. Broadway Street, Los Angeles, California, which is hereby designated as the place for transacting the business of said estate, in the County of Los Angeles.

Dated this 14th day of March, A. D., 1912.

LILLIE M. SMITH

Administratrix of the estate of Mary Smith also known as Mary E. Smith, deceased.

G. W. Wickliffe, attorney for the administratrix.

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